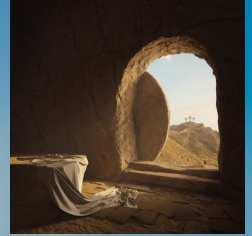
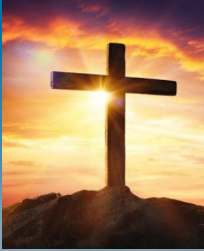


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PARISH LETTER

We are an Easter people

This year Easter Day came early - 31st of March - and was also the day when we put our clocks forward 1 hour and British Summer time began. So on the day we are all called to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from death we've also lost an hour's sleep. Maybe there is something of a lesson to learn in this?

We do not celebrate Easter and the joys of resurrection in a vacuum. Good Friday with the death of Jesus on the cross and its associated sadness as well as possibilities is one half of God's story of redemption and hope, the other side is victory over sin and death in Christ's victorious resurrection promising new life and hope.

We celebrate the joys of Easter not apart from struggles and darkness but in the midst of them. This year at Easter: Ukraine is still invaded by a hostile foreign army and its evil leader; Israel is still suffering the loss of many families, people in Gaza and Palestine are suffering from invasion, death and indiscriminate destruction; other areas of our world suffer from armed conflict, famine, and injustice.

In the beginning of John's gospel he writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1: 5) It almost seems that light needs darkness to truly reveal its glory, but darkness will never overcome the light of Christ - and in that lies our true hope.

The quote "We are an Easter people" was used by Pope John Paul II, but its origins are unclear and go much further back in Christian history - possibly to St. Augustine. However, the full quote is "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

Alleluia simply means 'Praise the Lord'. There are many reasons to praise our Lord; for the hope Easter brings, for the salvation that comes from God, that we have survived all that is happening in our lives, that God's grace still shines in our world, that Jesus has made our faith possible, that even in our broken world the light of Christ still shines clear.

Take your pick as to what suits you and your life this Easter. Let us live in the light, hope, promise, life and grace that Easter offers. May our lives be beacons in the darkness, our faith be infectious and life-giving, our witness be full of the grace and love of God.

This Easter, and always, let us live as Easter people and praise the Lord for all His benefits.

Blessings, Andy



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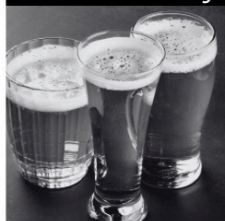
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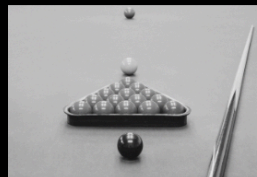


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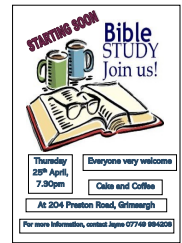


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Bible Study, Thursday 25th April, 7.30pm.

Exciting – Bible Study is back! Please come and join us, as we learn more about Jesus and the Bible together. Our first meeting is on Thursday 25th April, 7.30pm, 204 Preston Road, Grimsargh. There will be cake and coffee too – everyone very welcome. For more information, contact Jayne 07749 934 208.



Parish Meal, Saturday 27th April, 12-12.30pm

Come and enjoy a delicious meal at the Cross Keys, Whitechapel, Saturday 27th April. We will convene 12noon and the meal will be served at 12.30pm and will include two courses and coffee. Children are very welcome and there is a children's menu. There is also a sign-up list at the back of Church. Please sign up asap, or see Nellie, Hazel, or Jayne or any FAF member. We would politely ask you to sign up asap, as we need an idea of numbers - you will be able to pay on the day. There will be a raffle and an opportunity for you to share a chat and a delicious meal with your church family.

World Day of Prayer 1st March

This year's service, prepared by Christian women from Palestine, was held at Christ Church. The church was almost full and the music, readings and prayers were very well-received by those who attended. It was a delight to be joined by a class of children and their teachers from Longridge CE Primary School. During the service, they led us in three hymns and their behaviour was exemplary. We also appreciated the musical gifts of the Christ Church music group and their leader, Carol Rose. Following the service, many people stayed behind to enjoy refreshments prepared by Dot Little and Denise Atkinson (St. Wilfrid's church). A total of £153 was raised which will go to World Day of Prayer's outreach and education work. Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time and money and to all who attended the service.

The Magazine

A big thank you to all the magazine distributors and to all involved in its production. Thank you also to all you readers who so generously support us . The magazine money for the forthcoming year is now due ... £7. Please have the money ready for your distributor or if you would like to pay by BACS the details are as follows: -

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Food Bank

Many thanks to all who support the Food Bank at church. Your donations are taken regularly to the Salvation Army in Preston for distribution. The last time it was

taken they indicated a requirement for Jam, Coffee, Long Life Milk, Sugar, Tea Bags, Tinned Veg, Crisps and Biscuits but all donations are gratefully received.

St James the Least of All

On why a church should always resist change

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent light bulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Matins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle

Eustace

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A Ramble round Rome (continued)

The 3rd major poet of the Augustan era, following Virgil and Horace, was Publius Ovidius, known to us as Ovid. His leading work was the *Metamorphoses* (“Changes”), completed by 8 AD, an extensive mythological poem about people turned into fanciful beings. He also wrote some love poetry, the *Ars Amatoria*. In 8 AD he was banished by the emperor Augustus to the remotest part of the empire at the time, to a place on the eastern Black Sea coast. The reason for this is obscure but may be because his love poetry promoted free and easy relationships, contrary to the Emperor’s adherence to monogamous marriage which was his strict policy certainly for his own family, though rarely in practice obeyed. Ovid continued to write poetry in exile but longed to return home. The self-pitying, “*Ovidio exule, Musae planguntur.*” (Ovid in exile, the Muses weep).

Another quote: “*Tempora labuntur, tacitisque senescimus annis.*” (Times run on, but we grow silently old in years)

Mark

MOTHERS’ UNION

At the Mothering Sunday service we were pleased to welcome four new members to St. Michael’s Mothers Union. Joyce Lee, Linda Shaw, Maureen Wood and Louise Williams (who has transfer from another branch) It is lovely to continue to add new faces to our group



At the end of the service all the ladies present received a bouquet of daffodils and a card from the Mothers Union

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

At the March meeting Liz Emmott, one of our members, gave a fascinating talk about her life which started in Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, Malaysia, where she was born & lived for 8 years. Her parents (and grandparents) worked as missionaries in many places in the world. Liz told us the story of when her grandparents got married, her widowed great grandma, who lived with them, thought her daughter was too young to be sleep with a man so slept between them! Things must have changed as they went on to have four children!

Liz’s parents met in Kuching, where they were both working. Liz’s mum for a missionary society, The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, her father as a Health inspector & registrar for births & deaths. She showed us a picture of her own birth certificate signed by her father! Pretty unique! Also, there is the national postage stamp on it, with an Iban lady, naked down to her waist! Pretty unusual again!

Liz also talked about the history & cultures of Kuching and then her two return visits there, once when she was 21, to stay with her Chinese godmother and seeing the poverty and lifestyle of those living there. Then last October she took Peter, her husband. What an experience that must have been! All the changes in the country over the last years, particularly seeing the site of where her home used to be, meeting up with some of her school friends and finding a book about her school, St. Mary's and discovering a photograph of her parents wedding in it! Amazing!

What a great experience. Thank you, Liz (and Peter), for sharing your story with us.

Future dates for your diaries

Next meetings

April 17th Kieran & Rachael from Longridge Community Action (in school)

THURSDAY May 9th ASCENSION DAY MU Birthday Party at the Ribchester Arms 12.00 noon for 12.30 eats. See Hazel for more details

Then Ascension Day Service in church 7.30

June 19th David Guest, journalist & chief reporter for BBC NorthWest until Oct. 2020. An OPEN MEETING. ALL WELCOME In school

SCHOOL REPORT

WORSHIP

Bishop Jill explained that Zacchaeus loved money. To make him feel even more popular, he took even more money so the Romans were impressed by him. Money made him happy. Money was like his God. Money is not a proper God. When Jesus came to town, Zacchaeus wanted to listen to Him. Zacchaeus had a shock because Jesus asked him to come down from the tree and have tea.

We asked the children: What do you put your trust in? Being popular? Having lots of friends? Sport? Money?

We asked the children, how Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life? We then explained that, Zacchaeus realised he could be popular without taking money from others. Christians believe that Jesus wants so much more for them than that. Zacchaeus realised that he could be popular because Jesus had a place in his heart. Christians believe that Jesus longs to find a place in their heart too and anyone can invite Him into their heart at any time.

The following week, during Worship, Bishop Jill explained to the children (via video) that when Jeremiah was taken into exile in Babylon, he was under pressure. He heard some very fiery words from God. Sometimes Christians feel closest to God when they are under immense pressure. Bishop Jill explained to us that Jeremiah felt the word of God so strongly in his heart that it felt like a hammer, addressing all the bad events that were taking place at that time.

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Jeremiah felt the pressure when he told people about the word of God and ended up down a well!

We asked the children if they had ever been in a dark place.

Jeremiah was in a dark place in the well. In the dark place, the word of God continued to burn in his heart. God had plans for him. Christians believe that God has plans for them too. We advised the children that if they ever found themselves in a dark place, that they should shout out like Jeremiah because Christians believe that God always hears and He wants good things for us. By Jesus, He will always come and rescue us.

Mothering Sunday

Year 6 led our whole school worship all about Mother's Day. Mothering Sunday, or Mother's Day, is a day to celebrate mothers that recurs every year. Children show their love and gratitude to their mothers on Mothering Sunday through giving cards and gifts, as well as through acts of kindness. There are lots of lovely ways we can show we are grateful to our mother figures, but these don't have to cost a lot of money- it is the thought that counts.



COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

The message below was received by Mrs Rutherford, who organised the shoe boxes through school:

Your kindness and care have brought joy to people living through very difficult times in Ukraine, including the children pictured who have been displaced from their homes in the Kherson region and are staying at a refugee camp in Kobleve.

Thank you again for all your support,

With every blessing,

From all at International Aid Trust,

Julie

SPORTS

We have continued to enter all events on the sporting calendar. Below are just some of the events we have entered this past month.

Multi-skills

Six of our year 4 children participated in the Preston Schools Year 3/4 Multi-Skills competition. We competed across 6 events, testing our running, throwing and kicking skills. Our team performed with confidence, posting some quick times and high scores. After all the scores were added up, we finished in 6th place and earning more points towards the overall school Super League Championship Table



DANCE FESTIVAL

Our school dance team performed on the stage at Fulwood Academy in the Preston Schools Annual Dance Festival. Our team included pupils from year 2-6. We were incredibly proud of how our dance team performed and represented our school while watching the other school dances. A huge thank you must go to Miss Heather Burns and Miss Alice Alcock for coaching and preparing our team for the festival and leading them during



Swimming Gala

Our swimming team competed in the annual Preston Schools' Swimming Gala, held at West View Leisure Centre. Our swimmers were a credit to our school, performing with competitiveness but also great sportsmanship. We saw some excellent individual performances in the boys front crawl and backstroke, resulting in 2 gold medals for Evan W and in the boys breaststroke, resulting in a silver medal for Tobias L. In the girls individual races, Emilia L won 2 gold medals in the front crawl and backstroke finals. Our team also came 2nd in both the Medley Relay and the Front Crawl Relay.

In total, we won GOLD in 4 of the 6 finals and SILVER in another, finishing in 2nd place and winning promotion to Division 2 next year.

We look forward to the competitions during the summer term

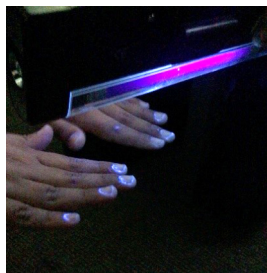
WORLD BOOK DAY

Everyone looked fantastic in their inspirational costumes. We enjoyed a day of thinking about our character, taking part in the 'Booky and Footy' quiz, book swapping, creating a mural, visiting different locations to listen to different members of staff read a book and sharing our favourite stories with each other!



SCIENCE VISIT

Pupils from Archbishop Temple Secondary School visited year 5 as part of Science week to discuss germs and the importance of washing our hands. We put UV lotion on our hands, thoroughly washed them before placing them under a UV light to see how well we washed them



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LET'S GO SING

Year 5 have been working hard since September to learn 10 songs with actions to perform at the 'Let's Go Sing' concert at King George's Hall alongside 400 other children. They also learnt Makaton to sign the words of one of the songs. The children were amazing on the night and they all had a fantastic time. We are all very proud of them



PTFA

We are very much looking forward to the next PTFA event which is the Easter Bingo- this event will take place on the 21st March at 5:30pm, in the Village Hall.

SAFEGUARDING

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th February it was Safer Internet Day, and all classes from Reception to Year 6 got involved in activities to highlight the importance of staying safe when on the internet in line with the focus of the day which was 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. Activities involved books and stories which gave scenarios of online situations, quizzes and discussion around what to do if something doesn't feel right when online. Please have a look at the Online Safety area of our school website and take some time to read the 'Wake Up Wednesday' information sent out alongside our newsletter each week and have regular conversations with your child about what they're doing online.

Search '**grimsarghstmichaels**' on Instagram, '**Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School**' on Facebook and '**GSMPrimaryArtDT**' to see a snapshot of some of the things our children have been doing.

On behalf of our school staff, I wish everyone within our Grimsargh community well and hope you all continue to support each other and stay safe this Easter time

Mr Stuart Booth
Headteacher

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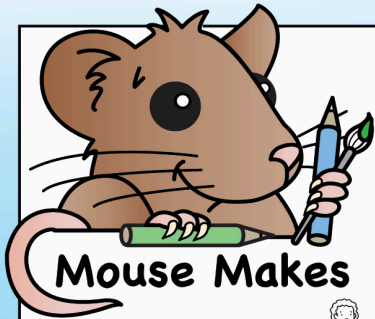
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Mouse Makes



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read
John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?

Read John 21: 11



READ
the story in
John 21



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
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Colour in all the fish

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With God, all things are possible. Mathew 19:26

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of St Michael's, Grimsargh.



When?



2nd and 4th Sunday of each month!
(term time only)

What?

Children aged 3 -11

Who?

Fun games, music and activities.

St Michael's Church and then
the Jigsaw Club hut!

Where?

Everyone
Welcome!

Optional
speaking in
Church!

A great way
to make new
friends!

Jesus
Is
Great
Special
And
Wonderful

Meeting in church for the first hymn at 10.00am
before leaving for lots of activities and fun.
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March	3rd	£299.50
March	10th	£240.72
March	17th	£146.22
March	21st	£20.00
March	24th	£370.50

FLOWER ROTA

April	7th	Dawn Desai
April	14th	B & M Mackley & N Cowell
April	21st	B & M Mackley & N Cowell
April	28th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
April	7th	B Mackley		B Mackley M Lamberty	
April	14th	K Thompson	S Cowell	D Rusling S Cowell	
April	21st	N Maudsley		N Cowell L Wood	
April	28th	R Buckley	B Mackley	L Williams B Holt	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Leader	Duty		Welcome
April	5th	Nellie	Marlene Kate	Janet
April	12th	Jean	Eileen Helen	Linda
April	19th	Marlene	Christine Nellie	Janet
April	26th	Kate	Maureen Jean	Linda

Holy Baptism

March 3rd

Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Lunabella Delilah Daniel

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

- 5th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 7th** **Easter 2**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 12th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 14th** **Easter 3**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
- 17th** 7.30pm Mothers Union in school
Keiran and Rachel - Longridge Community Action
- 18th** 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 19th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 21st** **Easter 4**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 25th** 7.30pm Bible Study, 204 Preston Road , Grimsargh
- 26th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 27th** 12 noon for 12.30 pm Parish Meal at The Cross Keys, Whitechapel
- 28th** **Easter 5**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club

DEADLINE for the May magazine is 15th April.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell (pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk)
and/or B Mackley (bjmackley@aol.com)



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